

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of verifying at least one property of a manufactured batch of a semi-transparent wood stain that is produced using a selected formula, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a spectrophotometer;

forming a standard batch of the wood stain using the selected formula;

adding a first set amount of a white colorant to the standard batch to form a standard measurement batch;

forming a standard layer of the standard measurement batch on a first substrate such that the standard layer completely hides the first substrate;

obtaining a test sample of the manufactured batch;

adding a second set amount of the white colorant to the test sample to form a test measurement sample, wherein the proportion of the second set amount of the white colorant to the test sample is substantially the same as the proportion of the first amount of the white colorant to the standard batch;

forming a test layer of the test measurement sample on a second substrate such that the test layer completely hides the second substrate;

obtaining reflectance measurements of the standard layer and the test layer using the spectrophotometer; and

using the reflectance measurements to determine if the at least one property of the manufactured batch is within an acceptable deviation range of at least one property of the standard batch.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one property of the manufactured batch of the semi-transparent wood stain is color.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one property of the manufactured batch of the semi-transparent wood stain is tinting strength.

4. (New) A method of verifying at least one property of a manufactured batch of a semi-transparent wood stain that is produced using a selected formula, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a spectrophotometer;

forming a standard batch of the wood stain using the selected formula;

adding a first set amount of a colorant to the standard batch to form a standard measurement batch;

forming a standard layer of the standard measurement batch on a first substrate such that the standard layer completely hides the first substrate;

obtaining a test sample of the manufactured batch;

adding a second set amount of the colorant to the test sample to form a test measurement sample, wherein the proportion of the second set amount of the colorant to the test sample is substantially the same as the proportion of the first amount of the colorant to the standard batch;

forming a test layer of the test measurement sample on a second substrate such that the test layer completely hides the second substrate;

obtaining reflectance measurements of the standard layer and the test layer using the spectrophotometer; and

using the reflectance measurements to determine if the at least one property of the manufactured batch is within an acceptable deviation range of at least one property of the standard batch.

5. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one property of the manufactured batch of the semi-transparent wood stain is color.

6. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one property of the manufactured batch of the semi-transparent wood stain is tinting strength.